

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) A computerized system for analyzing data for a supplier that provides products to a manufacturing company to evaluate the stability of said supplier for detecting supplier instability comprising:

a first database comprising supplier performance quality and delivery data for said supplier, said supplier performance data related to said manufacturing company's purchase of products from said supplier;

a second database comprising sensing-supplier provided business operation data, said supplier provided business operation data comprising data regarding said supplier's business operations provided by said supplier to said manufacturing

company at said manufacturing company's request;

a third database comprising third party financial data and third party and alert data, said third party financial and alert data comprising data related to said supplier's business operations obtained from at least one third-party service that collects and evaluates data for a plurality of companies;

a server computer with software for

- (a) defining a plurality of warning indicators related to said supplier's business wherein a plurality of value ranges is associated with each of said plurality of warning indicators, each of said plurality of value ranges corresponding to an acceptability level;
- (b) analyzing said supplier performance data, said supplier provided business operation data, and said third-party financial and alert data to assign a value to each of said plurality of warning indicators;
- (c) assigning an acceptability level to each of said plurality of warning indicators wherein said acceptability level is determined according said value assigned to each of said plurality of warning indicators and said value range for said each of said plurality of warning indicators;
and
- (d) assigning a stability level to said supplier according to said acceptability level for each of said plurality of warning indicators

wherein said stability level relates to said supplier's ability to continue
providing products to said manufacturing company.

~~adapted to assign and analyze warning indicators according to said supplier
quality and delivery data, said sensing data, and said third party financial data and
said third party alert data for each of a plurality of suppliers and to assign a supplier
stability level to said of said plurality of suppliers according to said warning
indicators for each of said plurality of suppliers; and~~

~~a workstation for connecting to said server and reviewing and preparing
reports based on said warning indicators and said supplier stability level for each of
said plurality of suppliers.~~

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein warning indicators comprise early warning indicators.
10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein said early warning indicators comprise financial, quality, delivery, new product development, management, and sensing indicators.
11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein said ~~software is adapted to assign a supplier stability level~~ is assigned according to judgment criteria for each of said plurality of early warning indicators.
12. (Original) The system of claim 9 further comprising annual warning indicators.
13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein said annual warning indicators comprise

profitability, financial, quality, cost, delivery, and management indicators.

14. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein said reports comprise an early warning indicator assessment report and a problem tracking report.

15. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for analyzing data for a supplier that provides products to a manufacturing company to evaluate the stability of said supplier ~~detecting supplier instability~~ comprising:

defining a plurality of early warning indicators related to said supplier's business;

defining a plurality of annual warning indicators related to said supplier's business;

entering into a database supplier performance data for said supplier, said supplier performance data related to said manufacturing company's purchase of products from said supplier;

entering into said database supplier provided business operation data for said supplier, said supplier provided business operation data comprising data regarding said supplier's business operations provided by said supplier to said manufacturing company at said manufacturing company's request;

entering into said database third-party financial and alert data for said supplier, said third-party financial and alert data comprising data related to said supplier's business operations obtained from at least one third-party service that

collects and evaluates data for a plurality of companies

assigning early warning indicator values to ~~a~~each of said plurality of early warning indicators for ~~a~~said supplier, said early warning indicator values determined according to said supplier performance data, said supplier provided business operation data, or said third-party financial and alert data for said supplier;

applying judgment criteria to each of said early warning indicator values to assign each of said early warning indicators to one of a plurality of bands;~~and~~

assigning annual warning indicator values to each of said plurality of annual warning indicators for said supplier, said annual warning indicator values determined according to said supplier performance data, said supplier provided business operation data, or said third-party financial and alert data for said supplier;

applying judgment criteria to each of said annual warning indicator values to assign a stability level to each of said annual warning indicator; and

evaluating said ~~judgment criteria~~early warning indicators and said annual warning indicators to assign ~~a~~an overall supplier stability level to said supplier wherein said overall supplier stability level relates to said supplier's ability to continue providing products to said manufacturing company.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein assigning early warning indicator values comprises assigning a value to financial, quality, delivery, new product development, management, and sensing indicators.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein evaluating said judgment criteria to assign a supplier overall stability level to said supplier comprises evaluating the number of new early warning indicators in each of said plurality of bands.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising monitoring said supplier according to said supplier's overall stability level.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising developing a recovery plan for said supplier if said supplier overall stability level indicates severe instability.
20. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein assigning early warning indicator values to a plurality of early warning indicators for a supplier comprises assigning said early warning indicators monthly.
21. (New) A computerized method for analyzing data for a supplier that provides products to a manufacturing company to evaluate the stability of said supplier comprising:
 - defining in a computer a plurality of warning indicators related to said supplier's business;
 - defining in said computer a plurality of value ranges of for each of said plurality of warning indicators wherein each of said plurality of value ranges corresponds to an acceptability level of values for said warning indicator;

entering into a database supplier performance data for said supplier, said supplier performance data related to said manufacturing company's purchases of products from said supplier;

entering into said database supplier provided business operation data for said supplier, said supplier provided business operation data comprising data regarding said supplier's business operations provided by said supplier to said manufacturing company at said manufacturing company's request;

entering into said database third-party financial and alert data for said supplier, said third-party financial and alert data comprising data related to said supplier's business operations obtained from at least one third-party service that collects and evaluates data for a plurality of companies;

analyzing at said computer said supplier performance data, said supplier provided business operation data, and said third-party financial and alert data to assign a value to each of said plurality of warning indicators;

assigning an acceptability level to each of said plurality of warning indicators wherein said acceptability level is determined according said value assigned to each of said plurality of warning indicators and said value range for said each of said plurality of warning indicators; and

assigning a stability level to said supplier according to said acceptability level for each of said plurality of warning indicators wherein said stability level relates to

said supplier's ability to continue providing products to said manufacturing company.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein said warning indicators comprise early warning indicators and annual warning indicators.
23. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein said early warning indicators comprise financial, quality, delivery, new product development, management, and sensing indicators.
24. (New) The method of claim 22 wherein said annual warning indicators comprise profitability, financial, quality, cost, delivery, and management indicators.
25. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein said supplier performance data comprises data selected from the group consisting of quality data, delivery data, trading association accounts receivable data, trading association payment history data.
26. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein said supplier provided business operation data comprises data selected from the group consisting of employee retention and attrition rates, employee absenteeism rates, and regulatory violations.
27. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein said third-party financial and alert data comprises data selected from the group consisting of net worth and profitability data, revenue and sales data, payment performance data, management experience data, changes in ownership data, changes in management data, and lawsuit, lien, judgment and bankruptcy data.